

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. During telephone conversation with G. Roger Lee (Attorney for the Applicants - Registration Number 28,963) on September 29, 2008, authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims,

111. (Currently Amended) A method by which a client connected to a data repository over a lower speed network connection may provide higher speed access to a data item for application processing by an application server than is possible over the relatively low speed connection to the network, the method comprising:

determining a digital fingerprint of the data item;

testing for whether the data item is already stored in the repository by comparing the digital fingerprint of the data item to digital fingerprints of data items already in the repository;

only if the data item is not already stored in the repository, transferring the data item over the lower speed connection from the client to; the repository;

assigning an expiration time to the data item, before which time both modification and deletion are prohibited;

making a higher speed connection between the application server and the data repository;

executing an application on the application server to process the data item stored in the data repository; and

returning a result of the executing step to the client across the lower speed connection;

wherein the client has a plurality of data items stored in the data repository_ and the client controls which of the plurality of data items the application server is allowed to access;

wherein the plurality of data items are archival records of data that were persistently stored in non-volatile storage outside of the repository;

wherein, after the expiration time is assigned and before the expiration time has passed, the client can change the expiration time to a later time but no action taken by the client can cause the expiration time to be changed to an earlier time or cause the data item to be deleted; and

wherein after the expiration time has passed deletion of the data item is allowed.

180. (New) The method of claim 111 in which the client connected to the data repository over the lower speed network connection has only intermittent connectivity to the network and the data repository has continuous connectivity to the network.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 111 – 113, 167 – 171, and 173 - 180 are hereby indicated as allowable over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowable subject matter.

The prior arts of record, (Kanai) disclose a data transfer scheme using a caching technique and/or a compression technique which is capable of reducing the network load of a network connecting between data transfer devices; (Yuasa) discloses the provision of a receiving apparatus that receives broadcast contents and accumulates the contents in a storage medium, and stores the accumulated contents into other devices to make them available to the user for a long period of time.

However, Kanai or Yuasa fails to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature "making a higher speed connection between the application server and the data repository, executing an application on the application server to process the data item stored in the data repository and returning a result of the executing step to the client across the lower speed connection; wherein the client has a plurality of data items stored in the data repository and the client controls which of the plurality of data items the application server is allowed to access; and wherein, after the expiration time is

assigned and before the expiration time has passed, the client can change the expiration time to a later time but no action taken by the client can cause the expiration time to be changed to an earlier time or cause the data item to be deleted" as required by independent claim 111.

The dependent claims, being definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also indicated as allowable.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRED I. EHICHILOYA whose telephone number is (571)272-4034. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pierre M. Vital can be reached on 571-272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Fred I. Ehichoya/
Examiner, Art Unit 2169

September 29, 2008

/Pierre M. Vital/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2169